

GRADE FOUR THEATRE CURRICULUM

Module 3: Storytelling Traditions of California

Enduring Understanding

Theatre in the World: Theatre draws upon the many [storytelling](#) traditions of California.

Essential Question

Why do different cultural groups tell similar stories in such a variety of ways?

Domain	Process	Standard
PERCEPTION	Analyzing	1.3 Demonstrate how voice (diction, pace, and volume) may be used to explore multiple possibilities for a live reading.
CREATION	Storytelling/Playmaking	2.2 Retell or improvise stories from classroom literature in a variety of tones (gossipy, sorrowful, comic, frightened, joyful, sarcastic).
	Role Playing/Acting	2.1 Demonstrate the emotional traits of a character through gesture and action.
	Designing	2.3 Design or create costumes, props, make-up, or masks to communicate character in informal or formal performances.
CONTEXT	Organizing	5.3 Exhibit team identity and commitment to purpose when participating in theatrical experiences.
	Putting into Historical and Cultural Context	<i>3.1 Identify theatrical or storytelling traditions in the cultures of ethnic groups throughout the history of California.</i>

	Critiquing	4.1 Develop and apply appropriate criteria or rubrics for critiquing performances as to characterization, diction, pacing, gesture, and movement.
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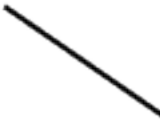
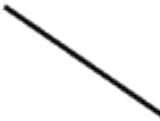
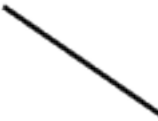
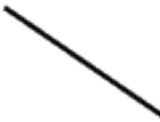
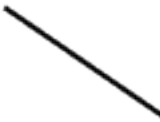
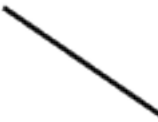
Essential standards and **supporting standards** to be assessed.

Sample Performance Task

Working with an ensemble, [adapt](#) and perform a short story using a storytelling tradition and [style](#) that comes from one of the diverse cultures of California.

Sample SCORING TOOL:

Quality Level	1. Artistic Perception	2. Creative Expression Grade 4 Standard 2.3	3. Historical / Cultural Context Grade 4 Standard 3.1	4. Aesthetic Valuing	5. Connections, Relationships, Applications
4 Advanced		Believably performs a role in an adaptation of a short story using a well executed storytelling tradition and style from an ethnic group in California history	Creatively adapts a short story into a script reflecting an ethnic/cultural group from California history		
3 Proficient		Performs a role in an adaptation of a short story using a storytelling tradition and style from an ethnic group in California history	Adapts a short story into a script reflecting an ethnic/cultural group from California history		

<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Partially Proficient</p>		<p>Attempts to perform a role in an adaptation of a short story using some evidence of a storytelling tradition and style from an ethnic group in California history</p>	<p>Attempts to adapt a short story into a script reflecting an ethnic/cultural group from California history</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Not Proficient</p>		<p>Does not perform a role</p>	<p>Does not adapt a short story into a script</p>		

Developing Concepts

Storytelling traditions are part of every culture.

Key Ideas

- Methods used to communicate stories develop from a society’s history.
- Storytelling techniques are passed down through generations.
- Oral traditions predate written narratives.

<p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge</p> <p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling • Oral Tradition 	<p style="text-align: center;">Skills</p> <p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch storytelling performances from a variety of cultures • Identify the different storytelling techniques used • Compare and contrast the different styles <p>Communication</p>
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- Practice telling stories using the various techniques

California’s diverse cultures provide a variety of storytelling techniques.

Key Ideas

- California is filled with people from many different backgrounds.
- Each cultural group has unique storytelling techniques developed over time.
- One of the popular styles of storytelling is evidenced in melodrama.

Knowledge

Vocabulary

- Diversity
- Storytelling Techniques
- [Melodrama](#)
- [Stock Characters](#)

Skills

Exploration

- Research the various cultures in California and identify their storytelling techniques
- Watch storytellers from each of the cultures
- Choose appropriate stories for telling

Performance

- Tell stories using the observed techniques
- Personalize techniques according to individual strengths
- Include exaggeration when appropriate

Stories are shared for many reasons.

Key Ideas

- Stories are created and told for a specific purpose.
- Storytelling is used to entertain, teach, explain and deepen human understanding.

Knowledge	Skills
Vocabulary	Creation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adapt and storytell a short story from a specific culture• Select storytelling technique appropriate to the cultural origin of the story• Rehearse for a variety of audiences Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell story for selected audiences• Organize a storytelling festival